

Christmas Gift Boxes and School Supplies for Children In Rural Areas of Central America and the Caribbean 2024 Information Sheet

Our Shoebox Ministry Targets Children 2-12 years of age.

Boxes MUST BE Marked: Girl or Boy and the Age (Age Range) of the Child appropriate for the shoe box contents. AGE RANGE CANNOT EXCEED 2 YEARS. As an example, 5-7yrs or 8-10yrs Please ensure the items in the Christmas Shoe box are Age Appropriate. As an example, toys with small parts would not be appropriate item for a child under 4 years old (choking hazard).

Clothing should be the correct size. Our Size Chart is Available on the Website and is very helpful. Please Do Not include Adult or Junior Size Clothing. Please Do Not Include Clothing Smaller Than 3T.

Below are items to be included in the Christmas Shoe Box.

- 1 pair of Flip Flops-NEW. (See Size Chart)
- 1-2 pair Underwear-NEW. (See Size Chart)
- 1-2 pair of Socks-NEW. (See Size Chart)
- 1 pair of Shorts & 1 Tee-shirt. Boys or Girls (2-7 years old) OR
A Dress with Shorts (Girls 2-7 years old)
- 1 Training Bra with a Shirt OR Shorts (Girls 8-12yrs) (See Size Chart)
If you can include both, PLEASE DO SO.
- 1 pair of Shorts OR a T Shirt (Boys 8-12 yrs.)
If you can include both, PLEASE DO SO.
- 1 Wash Cloth-NEW
- 1 Toothbrush in NEW IN ORIGINAL PACKAGE
- 1 Comb (large teeth)-NEW
- 4-6 crayons-NEW
- The Nativity Story Coloring Book supplied by the warehouse.

4-6 minimum of items (or similar) as listed below to FILL THE BOX. ALL ITEMS BELOW ARE TO BE NEW. NO USED ITEMS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| One Small Hand Mirror | Play Jewelry 2 to 4 items (4-7 year old girls) |
| Hot Wheel/Matchbox Cars | Play Dough 2 large cans or 3-4 small/mini (3-8years) |
| Small Dolls | One Sewing Kit (8 years and older) |
| One Small Sport Ball | One Fishing Kit (8 years and older) |
| Small Stuffed Animal Toys | One Bracelet Kit (8 years and older) |
| One Yoyo (Duncan brand (7-12 years) | One 6 inch ruler (7 years and older) |
| One Jump Rope (5 years and older) | Nail Grooming Kit (12 year olds) |

- Small Hard Rubber Balls (5 years and older 2-3 in small bag)
- Ponytail Holders, Barrettes etc. (6-10 in a small plastic bag).
- 4-6 Pencils, Pencil Sharpener, Small Pad of Paper (7 years and older) OR
- 4-6 Colored Pencils, Pencil Sharpener, Small Pad of Paper (7 years and older)
- ONE Child Development or Educational Card Game (2-6 years).

Please note: 1-2 small packs of tissues or 6-10 band aids may be included as a filler or an extra. THESE ITEMS ARE NOT CONSIDERED GIFTS

It is beneficial and cost effective to purchase items in package quantities such as: underwear, socks, crayons, pencils, pencil sharpeners, hair ties/ barrettes etc. Asking individuals in your group/class to buy an item that is packaged in quantities such as underwear, socks, marbles, pencils, crayons and then meet as a group to pack boxes works well. Another approach: Have some individuals buy supplies, some donate shipping cost while others complete box assembly at a central location. Everything is more expensive these days this is way to minimize an individuals or family's financial burden while maximizing participation in the ministry!

GENTLY USED AND CLEAN CLOTHING IS ACCEPTABLE (EXCLUDING Underwear, Socks and Flip Flops THESE ITEMS ARE TO BE NEW) Please use the following guideline: If you would not give the item in question Wrapped As A GIFT TO YOUR CHILD, GRANDCHILD or BEST FRIENDS CHILD THEN PLEASE DON'T INCLUDE THE ITEM IN YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX.

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

NO TOOTH PASTE

NO Books, Games, Activities in English. The children DO NOT SPEAK English. English is not spoken in the Home or at School

NO Swimming Suits

NO Long Sleeve Shirts, Long Pants, Pajamas

NO Food, Candy or Chewing Gum of Any Kind

NO Liquids of Any Kind. No Shampoo, Hand Sanitizer, Lotion Etc.

NO Chapstick, Make Up, Nail Polish

NO TOYS THAT CONTAIN LIQUID OR GEL SUCH AS BALLS WITH SUSPENDED GLITTER OR SPARKLES.

NO SLIME

NO Silly Putty, Kinetic Sand, Molding Clay.

NO Off Brand Play Dough. PLAY DOUGH MUST BE NAME BRAND

NO Toy Guns, Weapons, Soldiers, NO WAR TOYS

NO Playing Cards, NO Dominos (Can be used for gambling)

NO Sport Cards or Collection Cards of Any Kind

NO Balloons, Punching Balls. These are Choking Hazards for Young Children

One Child development and educational card game is Acceptable. As long English is Not Required.

The Disaster Relief Warehouse Furnishes: The Shoe Boxes and Nativity Scene Artwork Sticker to help decorate the shoe box. Shoe Boxes, Coloring books and Stickers will be available at the HUB churches. The coloring book can be printed from the website: www.umdisasterwarehouse.com. The warehouse can ship these items to your church at a cost. Please contact the warehouse at 256-341-9961 or email Christmasshoeboxes@gmail.com for more information.

Please try to fill each shoe box. **Please DO NOT OVER FILL.** If the shoe box is bulging, we can't pack the shipping case correctly and the box will have to be opened and repacked. **Please Do Not UNDER FILL THE SHOE BOX.** An under filled box means one child will only get one or two things, while his/her brother/sister, friend gets a full box. This can cause very hurt feelings in the home/school for the children.

Printed on the sides of the shoe boxes:

IS THE MANIFEST FORM. Please fill out with a PEN indicating whether the box is for a boy or girl and the Age (Age Range). The Customs Declaration Form is printed on the other side of the box. It MUST BE marked Boy or Girl and With the Child's Age, Age Range. YOU MUST INCLUDE AN ACCURATE LIST OF ITEMS IN YOUR SHOE BOX INCLUDING THE QUANTITY OF EACH ITEM

- (1) Feel Free to decorate the outside of the boxes, PLEASE DO NOT COVER UP THE CUSTOMS FORMS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE BOX. DO NOT PUT WRAPPING PAPER ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE BOX OR TISSUE PAPER IN THE BOX**
- (2) Please Put ONE Nativity Scene Artwork Sticker ON ONE END OF THE SHOE BOX. DO NOT PUT THE STICKER ANYWHERE ELSE ON THE SHOE BOX. DO NOT PUT THE NATIVITY ARTWORK STICKER IN THE SHOE BOX. THIS IS NOT A GIFT FOR THE CHILD.**
- (3) Please close your shoe box with packing tape, DO NOT INTERWEAVE THE TOP OR BOTTOM FLAPS OF THE BOX.**

A \$6.00 DONATION PER SHOE BOX IS NEEDED. These funds are used to pay expenses for shipment of the shoe boxes and school supplies as well as expenses incurred by missionary in getting the shoe boxes to the children, Please be sure to send the \$6.00 donation per shoe box. PLEASE DO NOT PUT ANY MONEY IN THE SHOE BOXES!

Please send one check for your group if possible. Please make the check payable to the Disaster Relief Warehouse "Christmas Shoe Box Ministry" on the memo line. The check can be mailed or brought to the warehouse. Mail address for checks:

U. M. Disaster Relief Warehouse, PO Box 1133 Decatur, AL 35602

For 2024: Completed Shoe Boxes are to be returned to the Decatur AL warehouse by August 22, 2024. If you are using a HUB location, you must contact that HUB representative and work with their schedule. REMEMBER COMPLETED SHOE BOXES CAN BE RETURNED ANY TIME TO THE WAREHOUSE! Be sure to call and schedule a delivery date and time. If your church needs assistance in returning the completed shoe boxes to the Decatur AL warehouse please contact us at 256-341-9961 or email Christmasshoeboxes@gmail.com.

Deadlines

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Thursday August 22nd | Shoe boxes due at the Decatur warehouse. Delivery from HUB locations to Decatur scheduled. |
| Thursday September 19th | Cases of shoes boxes labeled, Manifests, customs paperwork, RFQs in Process for shipments. |

A list of the 2024 Christmas Shoe Box HUB's (Distribution and Collections Points) will be available via email the end of May 2024. Please contact us at Christmasshoeboxes@gmail.com or 256-341-9961 for the list OR with any questions.